

From: MikeAaron1@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Antitrust Division,

I am writing to contribute my comments to the public comments being accepted regarding the Microsoft Antitrust matter. It appears as if Microsoft is barely being punished for its monopolistic practices.

I recommend stiffer penalties including the decoupling of products from their operating system. Is the Internet browser necessarily an integral part of the operating system? Is MSN part of their operating system? Is Windows Media Player part of their operating system? Should Microsoft be allowed to continue bundling these products with their OS to the exclusion of competing products?

This bundling creates a barrier to other software developers. If there is something that comes in Windows on your computer and is presented to you, you will be apt to click the defaults and end up using Microsoft products and subscribing to Microsoft services. This all happens without people knowing there are choices. My father in law and grandmother are not computer experts. They can be herded around dialog boxes and windows to fulfill Microsoft business plans.

Creating an environment for competitive products to have a chance would help individual developers and small startups achieve economic success.

thanks you for the opportunity to comment,
Mike Aaron